

A GUNSHOT wound to the chest, a knife wound to the abdomen, blunt-force trauma to the head — a typical workload for an Army surgeon in a combat zone. Except this isn't Afghanistan or Iraq, it's Miami. In "Real-World Trauma Training," SSG Alberto Betancourt takes you on a journey to the Army Trauma Training Center at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. There, Army physicians, nurses and medics receive world-class training in treating patients with many of the same injuries as battlefield casualties.

Of course, a soldier's best chance of survival is not to become a casualty in the first place. In "Defusing Danger," Beth Reece takes a look at training for the ultimate zero-defects job — explosive ordnance technician. Join Beth at the School of

Explosive Ordnance Disposal to see how soldiers are trained to succeed in this specialty of no second chances.

And If you think learning to safely dispose of unexploded ordnance is stressful, try doing it in a combat zone. To see explosive ordnance technicians in action, don't miss "EOD in Iraq" by PFC Joshua Hutcheson, and "EOD in Afghanistan" by CPL Keith D. Kluwe.

Happy Independence Day.

John E. Suttle
John E. Suttle



Soldiers

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Great Civilian Poster!

JUST a quick note to say thanks for your informative magazine. As a field recruiter in a rural area, sometimes a photo or article of soldiers in action speaks to potential recruits more effectively than all the recruiters in my office. I did, however, miss the April issue because our local USAR unit was being deployed.

I'd heard that the issue contained a "Civilian Workforce" poster, and finally acquired one and posted it outside my office. I have been receiving many positive comments from retirees, teachers, law enforcement officers and others in the community. I was wondering if you can spare a few for my office to pass out? We would greatly appreciate it.

SFC John Originales
Dodge City, Kan.

I AM writing on behalf of COL Victoria Post, director of the Community Activities and Services Business Center at Fort Bragg, N.C.

We received copies of the "Civilian Workforce" poster and are very impressed. We would like to frame and hang the poster in our facilities. We have a very large civilian workforce and feel this poster is great for morale.

Would it be possible to receive additional posters (rolled not folded) that will be suitable for framing?

Kimberly Ford
via e-mail

Casualties, Not Combat

YOUR May 2003 issue has an error on page 25. It refers to World War II as ending in 1946, when it actually ended in September 1945.

1LT Frank M. Campana
via e-mail

THE 1946 date actually refers not to the end of hostilities, but the end to the recording period for World War II combat casualties. Soldiers wounded in action or injured in accidents be-

fore September 1945 who died at any time through the end of 1946 were counted as casualties of that war.

AFTER reading "A Time to Honor, A Time to Remember" in the May issue, I noticed a glaring error — the failure to list Operation Enduring Freedom. Not once in this article is the Afghanistan conflict mentioned. Many service members gave their lives in this ongoing operation and their ultimate sacrifice should be acknowledged.

Maj. William McGarrity
Maxwell AFB, Ala.

CASUALTY figures for Operation Enduring Freedom were not listed because at the time the article went to press no official figures had been released by the Department of Defense. Though we mentioned that Operation Iraqi Freedom figures were not listed for the same reason, we neglected to expand that explanation to cover OEF. We regret that omission.

Flipped Foto

I AM writing in reference to the May issue. The picture on page 14, in the article "With Care and Respect," was printed backwards. It seems that the negative was flipped before the print was made.

SPC Melissa Bennett
Fort Rucker, Ala.

More on SDAP

THIS is in response to the "Why SDAP?" article in the March edition. Hopefully this will answer the reader's question about why career counselors get SDAP.

SDAP is paid to "an enlisted member who is entitled to basic pay and is performing duties which have been designated by the secretary concerned as extremely difficult or involving an unusual degree of responsibility in a military skill."

Career counselors are charged with interpretation of applicable policies, potential violations of Federal statutes and actions with direct and long range monetary impact on morale, readiness and command integrity.

Department of the Army standards require career counselors to not only be subjected to the close scrutiny of their personal lives but also to be held to a standard higher than other NCOs. Career counselors are governed by unique relief tables (IAW AR 601-280) that other NCOs simply are not subject to.

As the commander's personal and principle advisor on the legality and impact of retention policies, the career counselor is faced with responsibilities outweighing those of a soldier of comparable rank. Their actions have the potential to place a commander in direct violation of federal law or DA/DOD policy.

The career counselor's MOS knowledge is also of paramount importance. Failure to accurately compute or misinterpretation of eligibility have far-reaching monetary and emotional impacts that not only hurt the individual but may also cost the government, since the career counselor is the Army's agent in binding contractual litigation with the soldier.

Career counselor duties clearly meet the "unusual degree of responsibility" requirement for SDAP entitlement.

MSG K. LEON
via e-mail



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